

November 19, 2004

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV300-5-2

SUBJECT: LTP – FY2005 Farm Bill Actions and Timelines

Purpose: To provide information and Timelines for use in implementing the FY 2005 Farm Bill Programs

Expiration Date: This Bulletin expires September 30, 2005

This Bulletin is to provide information and timelines for use in implementing the FY 2005 Farm Bill Programs.

West Virginia received the following Financial Allocations:

Program	FA \$
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	\$0
Farm & Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)	\$1,645,503
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	\$651,186
Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	\$5,836,308
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)	\$150,000
Conservation Security Program (CSP)	\$0
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	\$956,410
Agriculture Management Assistance Program (AMA)	\$729,478
Total NRCS Mandatory Funds	\$9,968,885

Field staffs need to move forward with planning and scheduling the necessary work items to allow NRCS to implement the even greater increase of financial assistance during FY2005. ASTC(FO)'s and DC's are strongly encouraged to share this information with the Local Work Groups to keep them informed of upcoming activities. At this time we do not have a timeline for CSP but, we anticipate a winter sign up.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Rick Heaslip, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Operations Management, at 304-284-7579.

/s/ Richard L. Judy, Acting for

**LILLIAN V. WOODS
State Conservationist**

Attachments

DIST: O

**John Rader, SED, FSA, Morgantown, WV
Clare Cottrell, Chair, FSA State Committee
Truman Wolfe, Executive Director, WVCA, Charleston
Gary Oates, President, WVACD, Waverly**

FY2005 Farm Bill Timeline

EQIP

EQIP Migration

Dec 6, 2004 EQIP Migration/EQIP Net Conference covering EQIP Migration Status, EQIP Manual, and EQIP issues.

Dec 31, 2004 EQIP Migration Completion Deadline.

1st Round

Dec 10, 2004 LWG's meet and provide advice regarding any changes in LWG Priority Resource Concerns, Ranking Criteria, and Practice Lists. DC's to send information in electronic format to Herb Andrick and their ASTC(FO). DC's will clearly identify any recommended changes in the ranking criteria and cost list from FY2004. The State Conservationist must approve any changes.

Dec 30, 2004 NRCS and Local Work Group members announce availability of EQIP information and end of ranking period. Conduct Concentrated Public Outreach.

Jan 28, 2005 End of Ranking Period.

Mar 4, 2005 DC's complete ranking of applications. All EQIP applications and ranking data are entered into ProTracts.

Mar 8, 2005 Lead DC's will select applications for contract development, based on ranking points and funding availability, from the ProTracts database. The "Lead DC" in the LWG will coordinate and confirm applications selected for contract development with the other DC's, the ASTC(FO), and the ASTC(Operations). Do not skip over a higher ranked application to fund a lower ranked application.

Mar 9, 2005 DC notifies the applicants selected for contract development via letter, using ProTracts.

Apr 8, 2005 EQIP Plan of Operations and Contract support documents to be prepared for contract approval. DC's will promptly notify the ASTC (FO) and ASTC (Operations) in writing of any problems with applicant cancellations. All conservation plans and contract support documents will be developed in Toolkit. The contract support documents will be uploaded into ProTracts, according to the guidance and instructions for the use of ProTracts.

EQIP-Continued**2nd Round**

Apr 8, 2005 End of Ranking Period.

May 6, 2005 DC's complete ranking of applications. All EQIP applications and ranking data are entered into ProTracts.

May 10, 2005 Lead DC's will select applications for contract development, based on ranking points and funding availability, from the ProTracts database. The "Lead DC" in the LWG will coordinate and confirm applications selected for contract development with the other DC's, the ASTC(FO), and the ASTC(Operations). Do not skip over a higher ranked application to fund a lower ranked application.

May 11, 2005 DC notifies the applicants selected for contract development via letter, using ProTracts.

Jun 17, 2005 EQIP Plan of Operations and Contract support documents to be prepared for contract approval. DC's will promptly notify the ASTC (FO) and ASTC (Operations) in writing of any problems with applicant cancellations. All conservation plans and contract support documents will be developed in Toolkit. The contract support documents will be uploaded into ProTracts, according to the guidance and instructions for the use of ProTracts.

WHIP

Feb 28, 2005 Deadline for FO to load all active previous year contracts with practices not paid into ProTracts.

1st Round

Dec 3, 2004 End of Ranking Period.

Dec 16, 2004 FO complete ranking of applications. All WHIP applications and ranking data are entered into ProTracts.

Dec 17, 2004 Tentative approval list distributed.

Mar 11, 2005 Completed contracts uploaded into ProTracts.

2nd Round

Apr 1, 2005 End of Ranking Period.

Apr 14, 2005 FO complete ranking of applications. All WHIP applications and ranking data are entered into ProTracts.

Apr 15, 2005 Tentative approval list distributed.

Jun 17, 2005 Completed contracts uploaded into ProTracts.

3rd Round (if needed)

Jun 17, 2005 End of Ranking Period.

Jun 30, 2005 FO complete ranking of applications. All WHIP applications and ranking data are entered into ProTracts.

Jul 1, 2005 Tentative approval list distributed.

Aug 26, 2005 Completed contracts uploaded into ProTracts.

WRP

End of Ranking Periods:

Dec 3, 2004

Apr 1, 2005

Jun 17, 2005

AMA

Mar 4, 2005 End of Ranking Period.

Apr 15, 2005 FO complete ranking of applications. All AMA applications and ranking data are entered into ProTracts.

Apr 20, 2005 Application approval list distributed.

Jun 3, 2005 Completed contracts uploaded into ProTracts.

GRP

Jan 10 – 30, 2005 Training

Jan 30, 2005 End of Ranking Period

Feb 15, 2005 Area Teams complete ranking of applications. All GRP applications and ranking data are entered into ProTracts.

Mar 1, 2005 Selection and notify FO applications selected.

Mar 15, 2005 Landowner intent to proceed signed and returned to State Office.

FY2005 Farm Bill Timeline

December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
EQIP										
Dec. 10 - LWGs provide draft program to STC for approval										
Dec. 30 All data posted to web, NRCS and LWG announce program										
Continuous signup Jan. 28 End of ranking period										
Ranking of applications as received Mar. 4 - Ranking completed, all applications and scores in ProTracts										
Mar. 8 - Lead DC selects applications for funding										
Contract dev. April 8 - All contracts developed and signed in ProTracts										
Continuous signup April 8 End of second ranking period										
Ranking of applications as received May 6 - Ranking completed, all applications and scores in ProTracts										
May 10 - Lead DC selects applications for funding										
Contract dev. June 17 - All contracts developed and signed in ProTracts										
WHIP										
Dec. 3 - End of first ranking period										
Ranking Dec. 16 - FO completes ranking of applications										
Dec. 17 - List of approved applications sent to FO										
Contract development March 11 - All contracts developed and signed un ProTracts										
Continuous signup April 1 - End of second ranking period										
Ranking of applications as received April 14 - FO completes ranking of applications										
April 15 - List of approved applications sent to FO										
Contract development June 17 - All contracts developed and signed in ProTracts										
Continuous signup June 17 - End of third ranking period										
Ranking of applications as received June 30 - FO completes ranking of applications										
July 1 - List of approved applications sent to FO										
Contract development Aug. 26 - All contracts developed and signed in ProTracts										
WRP										
Dec. 3 - End of ranking period										
Continuous signup April 1 - End of ranking period										
June 17 - End of ranking period										
AMA										
Continuous signup Mar. 4 - End of ranking period										
Ranking of applications April 15 - Ranking completed and in ProTracts										
April 20 - application approval list to FO										
Contract dev. June 3 - Completed contracts in SO										
GRP										
Jan. 10-30 - Training										
Continuous signup Jan. 30 - End of ranking period										
Ranking of applications Feb. 15 - Area teams complete ranking of applications. All applications and ranking data into ProTracts										
Mar. 1 Select and notify FO of applications selected for funding										
Mar. 15 - Landowner intent to proceed signed and returned to SO										